pathic System has been appointed under this system despite Government efforts to appoint local chemist by inviting tenders through leading News Papers.

Sick Jute Mills in the country

260. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of jute mills in the country that have fallen sick and how many are in a state of lock out and workers laid off, at present statewise; and

(b) what measures are being taken to revive the sick and locked out mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The state-wise number of jute mills, which have fallen sick, number of jute mills under lockout/closure and the number of workers affected as on 1-8-1991 are as under:

S. No.	Name of State	Number of sick Jute mills registered with BIFR	Number of sick jute mills under lockout/ closure	Number of workers affected
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	..	..
2.	Bihar	1	1	1,300
3.	Orissa	1	..	..
4.	Uttar Pradesh	1	1	1,040
5.	West Bengal	23	6	21,900
	Total :	29	8	24,240

(b) Government have taken several measures for the revival of sick mills including creation of Jute Modernisation Fund to cater to the modernisation requirements of the jute industry, establishment of Social Jute Development Fund for restructuring the jute economy, enactment of mandatory use of jute packing for foodgrains, sugar, cement and urea, grant of financial support for R&D activities and product diversification programmes, regular purchase of B. Twill bags on cost plus basis, encouragement of diversification by providing facilities of excise exemption, concessional import duty, marketing support etc. Government have also set up a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to determine and enforce remedial preventive and ameliorative steps for the revival of sick industrial companies.

Drugs smuggling on Indo Pak border

261. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have held detailed discussions with Pakistan to counter drug smuggling on the Indo-Pak border, recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held in this connection and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Detailed discussions were held in Islamabad on 30th and 31st July, 1991 between drug enforcement officers of both the countries for exchange of intelligence on illicit drug traffickers operating across the borders, and for bilateral cooperation in the investigation of drug trafficking cases having ramifications in both the countries. Since a very large proportion of Heroin and Hashish seized in India are smuggled from